

Illusionist Steve Santini can get out of a tight squeeze

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

Steve Santini is different than most.

He has the uncanny ability of getting himself out of "tight squeezes." In no more than 20 seconds Mr. Santini escaped from several shackles around his forearms and wrists while under water at the Riverside Health Spa Pool in Norval Monday afternoon.

But this demonstration was only

a preview of things to come at his Club 2000 show in Norval Nov. 8.

Mr. Santini, 29, plans to escape from a straight jacket while chained to a cross. But it should not be forgotten that 21 pounds of smokeless pistol powder located at the bottom of the cross will be set to inflame a minute after being chained to the cross.

Mr. Santini is keen to succeed, otherwise "I'd certainly ruin my

day." Mr. Santini has already successfully made the escape three times.

But the Oshawa resident's talents don't end here. He is also capable of sending people on missions to Mars in space shuttles to fight carnivorous aliens. He can bring Elvis back to life and send others on tobogganing rides down Mount Everest.

No, Mr. Santini has never graced the pages of a supermarket tabloid. But he has toured the province for the last several years, mesmerizing audiences as an escape artist and hypnotist.

Using the power of persuasion Mr. Santini says he can get people to do some "strange and bizarre things." In one show an audience member who volunteered to go to Mars got so carried away that upon leaving the club he looked into the night and started running around the parking lot shooting at aliens.

It took two bouncers to bring the man under control, said Mr. Santini.

He says hypnosis is an appeal to a "person's imagination. It is not putting someone in a trance-like state.

"We're all open to suggestion in an awakened state; advertising has been working on this premise for years," he says.

Mr. Santini uses five tests to build a person's trust and imagination levels. The first such test might be where a person is asked to imagine standing on a building ledge. The person is then told that leaning backwards means safety while leaning forwards equals death. The faster someone sways backwards the better candidate the person will make, said Mr. Santini. The tests continue until the person enters a relaxed state and the imagination opens like a "flood gate.

"The hill, the more you accept the more outrageous the outcome."

Burns in Ballinafad

By BETTY SOJKA
Ballinafad Correspondent

The Robert Burns Buffet Dinner and Dance Saturday proved to be a superb evening. Mr. and Mrs. Ernie McEnery with Mr. Layman played a wonderful assortment of country music on their instruments to the crowd's delight until the formal evening's program began.

Alyson and Brian Arsenault sang Amazing Grace beautifully, and then Mr. Arsenault as Master of Ceremonies of the night welcomed all. The Haggis was piped in by Mr. Joe Sellers, and carried in by Mr. Fred Shortill. Mr. Sandy Keir gave a wonderful address to the Haggis. From here a most sumptuous tender roast beef buffet was served complete with a very tasty Haggis. Mr. Bill Dowell recited The Immortal Memory, and then the crowd was enthralled to hear Mr. Joe Sellers on the pipes again. The rest of the evening's entertainment had Mr. Fred Shortill give the Star O' Robbie Burns, Henry Martin give a toast to the lassies, and Mrs. Carolyn Martin give an amusing reply.

The Senior Choir accompanied by Millie Smith on organ, sang a lovely repertoire of songs, highlighted with a solo by Rebecca Howse, whose voice is very sweet to the ears. Mr. Fred Shortill sang a very moving "For These Are My Mountains."

Throughout the evening great prizes were given out that consisted of two glider ride tickets, and \$50 worth from Erin's health food store donated by Don Parker of NRS Real Estate. The Royal Bank supplied sets of glasses, a cuddly four-ft. stuffed lion, golf putter, and beach umbrella. Mr. Leo Jamieson donated a gorgeous hand-made wooden bowl that had a very intricate pattern. Neilson Chocolates of Georgetown supplied many wonderful spot prizes. The Senior Choir contributed an adorable white stuffed bear. The Gordon Capital Corp. and Nesbitt Thompson also contributed to make this evening a huge success. A total of \$250 from this endeavor was donated to the Bonnie Walker

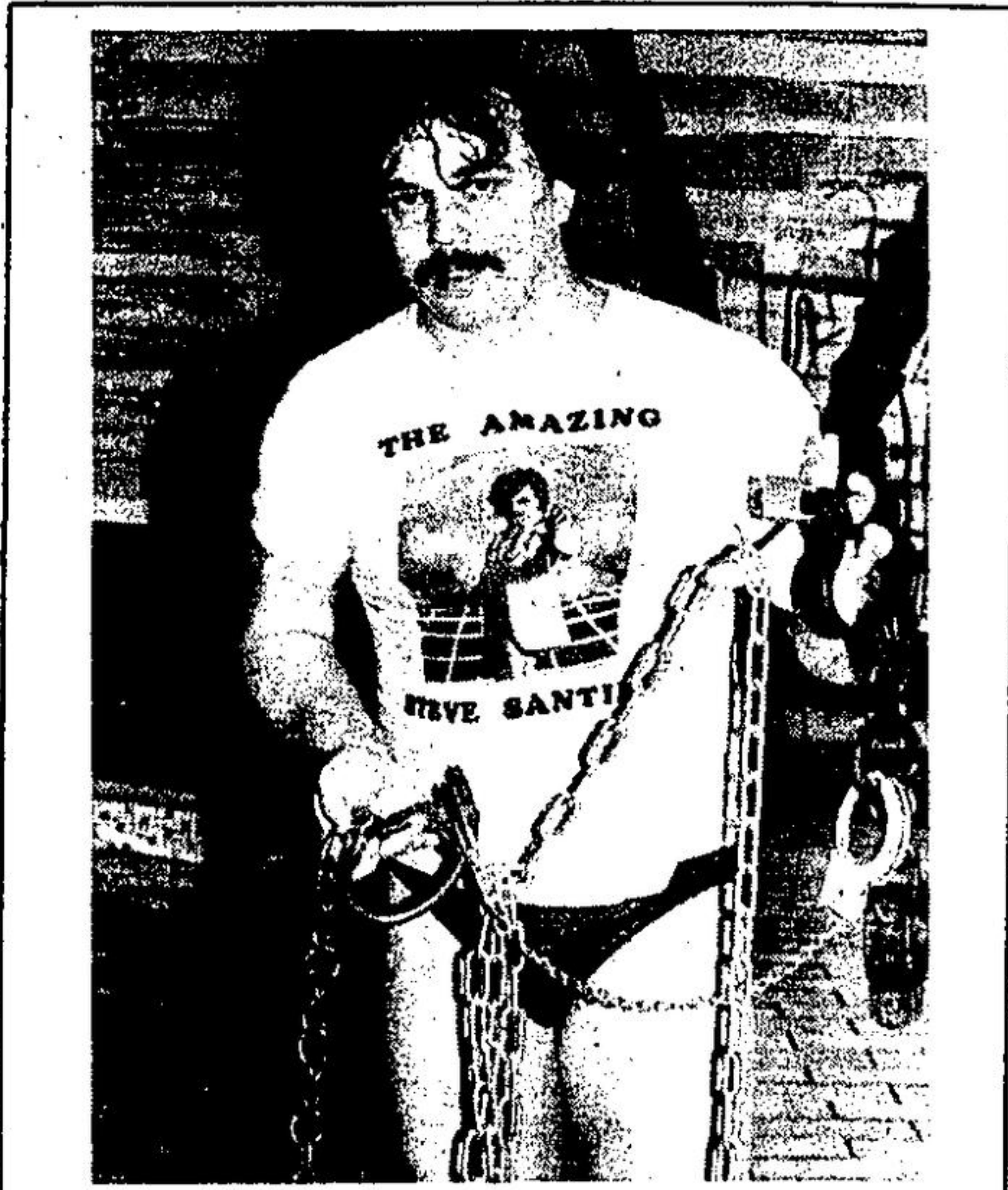
Fund. The organizers of the Robert Burns Dinner and Dance should be applauded. The schedule was extremely timely, the food out of this world, and the entertainment so varied. It took many hours of hard work to pull off such a grand evening. Thank you.

The United Church Women had their new president Mrs. Alma Sinclair preside over their Tuesday, Jan. 23 meeting. Mrs. Sinclair also gave the Devotion. Guest speaker was local Anne Martin, who spoke on her experiences with Britain's Operation Rawleigh. This program involved her travelling to Kenya where along with youths they helped the people with a number of things. Her photos were particularly fascinating.

Monday, Feb. 5 is the first scheduled meeting of the 4-H Club. This session will be "Putting Your Best Foot Forward," a course on etiquette and manners. Youth interested in this program are asked to call Lynn Sinclair at 877-3835.

People are reminded to come to the community centre this Sunday, Feb. 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. for the Bonnie, Jeff, and Diane Walker "Starting Over Gathering." You are asked to bring something personal for Bonnie and the kids, or they need the usual household items. Coffee and sandwiches will be served.

A petition to improve the response time to a fire can be signed at the Ballinafad General Store. It has been suggested that fire station be built in the village.



Illusionist Steve Santini got out of these chains while under water at the Riverside Health Spa in Norval for a Media Session, Monday. (Herald photo)

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